

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the present application. The final Office Action dated March 24, 2004 has been received and its content carefully reviewed.

By this Response, Applicant has cancelled claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer, amended claim 1, and added new claims 20-27. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-9 and 11-27 are pending in the application with claims 12-19 being withdrawn from consideration as drawn to a non-elected species. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections based upon the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify the recited subject matter. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,144,435, issued to Yokoyama et al. (hereafter "Yokoyama"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because Yokoyama fails to teach each and every feature recited in the claims of the present application. For example, Yokoyama fails to teach or suggest an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device that includes, among other features, "at least one dummy pattern overlapping at least one portion of the data lines, wherein the portion of the data lines overlapped with the dummy pattern is electrically connected to the dummy pattern," as recited in independent claim 1.

Applicant respectfully notes, in Yokoyama, the group of dummy electrodes 41 are formed on the first substrate and separated from the drive electrodes 31 that are formed on the second substrate. (See, FIG. 13A and col. 10, lines 3-6). Further, as stated in the specification of Yokoyama, the dummy electrode 41 may be formed in the peripheral region other than the active region to measure an electrode resistance without adversely affecting the drive electrodes (see, col. 9, lines 66- col. 10, line 2), and the data line is formed in the active region. As such, the dummy electrode 41 cannot be overlapped with the data line, as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Because Yokoyama fails to teach or suggest each of the features recited in independent claim 1, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-9 and 11 are allowable over Yokoyama. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 are respectfully requested.

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Reply to final Office Action dated March 24, 2004

Docket No.: 8733.497.00-US

With regard to new claims 20-27, Applicant has added new claims 20-27 to provide an additional scope of protection for the invention disclosed in the originally filed specification. Applicant respectfully submits claims 20-27 are allowable over the references of record.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: June 24, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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